Saint Martha

by James Duvalier

Saint Martha

By

James Duvalier

A collections of prayers, devotions and rituals to seek Saint Martha's miraculous help and protection.

Copyright 2015 by James Duvalier

Disclaimer: The author makes no claims or guarantees as to the efficacy of the rituals, prayer, invocations described in this book. The author waves all liability regarding any claims expressed or implied in this work. The material in this book is intended for information and entertainment purposes only and results of any of the services described therein are not guaranteed. The author is not a legal or medical professional and any information contained in this work should not be misconstrued as legal or medical

advice. The author will not be held responsible for any damages brought about by following instructions contained in this work and anybody who undertakes any activity described therein does so at his or her own risk. The prayers contained in this book both in English and Spanish are in the public domain and/or are translations done by James Duvalier of popular prayers and devotions.

Introduction

Many years ago Saint Martha chose me to be her devotee and has rewarded me abundantly ever since. One hot July day in 2001, I entered a botanica (spiritual shop) in Holyoke, Massachusetts after having accidently, or so I thought, locked my keys in the car while it was still running! It is clear to me now that this was no mere accident. I had about an hour to kill while I waited for my grandfather to come with a spare set of keys. I chatted with the owner of the shop and looked through her products. I bought several pouches of dried herbs, some

florida water and made my way over to the section of the store that had prayers written in Spanish on crumbly, yellowing paper on sale for 25 cents. One prayer titled "Los nueve martes de Santa Marta," caught my eyes. *The Nine Tuesdays of Saint Martha.* The paper claimed that Saint Martha was so powerful that she would deliver whatever you ask or something better by the 9th Tuesday. I was intrigued so I bought the prayer. Eventually I straightened out the situation with the car, paid for my items and left. The paper remained tucked away in the bag for weeks.

In the weeks that followed I saw and

heard Saint Martha's name everywhere. On a trip to Puerto Rico I saw a small evangelical church that had as their motto "Como María en Betania." Maria, I learned was the sister of Saint Martha who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to him preach while Martha welcomed him into her home. I talked to a santera who had a special devotion to Saint Martha and I read accounts of her life in the Bible and in books of saints' lives. Eventually I remembered the paper I had bought at the botanica and decided to pray the 9 Tuesdays of Saint Martha, which will be described later on this book. The experience of petitioning Saint Martha was beautiful and life

changing to say the least.

As a spiritual worker, I petition many saints and spirits with great success, but Saint Martha has always proven to be the fastest to answer my prayers and the most generous in her blessings and loving protection. She has helped me tremendously over the years with health issues, finding jobs, getting into a very competition university program, getting the necessary legal documentation to live in Europe, which at one point seemed almost impossible. She has helped me in more ways than I can count and I feel daily the love and protection that she offers me. Even when I have nothing

to request, I light a candle to her each Tuesday to thank her for all that she has done for me and for being my special advocate in front of Almighty God. She is second in my heart only to Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Writing this book is my very small and humble attempt at offering her thanks and praise for all that she's done for me.

Most of the prayers contained in this book are Catholic in origin, but you do not need to be of any particular religion or denomination to seek the help of Saint Martha. Just approach her with an open heart and use one of the prayers or devotions I've compiled here or simply pray in your own

words. When she answers your prayer, you can thank her by making a small donation to charity or by helping somebody in need and of course telling others about her miraculous intercessory powers. Also, you may wish to purchase an icon or statue of her to keep in your home in front of which you can light candles or make offerings of flowers. I have a special place of honor for her on my home altar.

I hope you enjoy learning about Saint Martha and I urge you to seek her blessings and protection and most importantly give thanks to God and Saint Martha for the blessings you

receive through her intercession. If you have any questions or wish to share your experiences regarding this miraculous saint, please contact me at james.duvalier@gmail.com. I wish you peace, happiness and abundant blessings!

James Duvalier

Who is Saint Martha?

According to biblical tradition, Saint Martha was the sister of Saint Mary Magdalene and Saint Lazarus, whom Christ raised from the dead. This story appears in the Bible in the Gospel according to John. It reads as follows:

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord", Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord", she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four

days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

John 11:20-27, 12 1-8

The above passage is quite powerful since it shows that Martha was an early believer in Jesus and went so far to declare that he was the Christ who came down from Heaven for the salvation of the world. Her faith is rewarded by Jesus when he raises her brother Lazarus from the dead after he had been laid in the tomb.

Later on in the Gospel according to John, Martha is present at the famous moment when Mary Magdalene anoints Jesus's feet with perfumed oil. This

anointing took place in Martha's home where she served Jesus and his disciples.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
John 12: 1-3.

My favorite reference to Saint Martha

in the Bible is from the gospel of Luke when Martha receives Jesus into her home and serves him food while he preaches to her sister Mary who sits at his feet. The following passage shows the importance of taking time off of work and stressful matters to focus on the spiritual.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that

my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"
"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, according to medieval legend, Martha, Mary and Lazarus travel to the south of France where they preach the Gospel and help spread Jesus's message of peace and love. Martha was also recorded as having rebuked and tamed a dragon-like

monster called the Tarasque by sprinkling holy water on it and invoking the name of God. I personally love Saint Martha because her example shows us that we can achieve greatness by doing simple things as long as they are done with love and faith.

Another version of Saint Martha that appears quite often in Afro-Caribbean iconography is that of a light skinned African woman with two large snakes wrapped around her body. The snakes could be a new world version of the Tarasque from medieval French imagery. In Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, her devotees believe that she sends her snakes out

on your behalf to eat away negativity and obstacles that hold you back in life. She is also invoked quite often in love spells so much so that she has come to be called Santa Marta Dominadora "The Dominator" due to her ability to make people do your will in matters of love. I believe that the European and African Saint Marthas are one in the same, but she has just taken on a different form to endear herself to her New World devotees who themselves are largely of mixed African and European descent.

There is an old tradition of lighting a candle and reciting a prayer to Saint Martha on nine consecutive Tuesdays. This devotion is known as the Nine

Tuesdays of Saint Martha of which I spoke about it the introduction. I have used this novena on several occasions and have never been let down. I have not always gotten what I've asked for, but each time my request was refused, something better came along! I can say from personal experience that Saint Martha does look after her devotees! I am happy to share the following compilations of popular prayers and devotions that can be used to invoke Saint Martha. I hope you put them to use and develop a special relationship with this miraculous saint. When your petition is granted, it is customary to thank her by making a small donation to charity or a church and of course

spreading devotion by telling others about her. So let's have a look at some of the ways to invoke Saint Martha.

The Nine Tuesdays of Saint Martha

This is the most well know of all the devotions to Saint Martha. It simply involves lighting a candle to Saint Martha on nine consecutive Tuesdays and reciting the prayer while making your request. It is customary to use a green or white candle and allow the candle to burn out on its own. Here are two examples of the prayer you may recite. Either one will work fine.

The following prayer should be recited for nine consecutive Tuesdays lighting a candle each Tuesday to Saint Martha. Saint Martha is known to grant any favor by the 9th Tuesday or give you something that is better than

what you've asked for and for the greater benefit of your soul. Even after the 9th Tuesday, you can continue to pray to Saint Martha and light a candle in her honor. I have done this for 10 years now and she has blessed me tremendously.

Light the candle and make the Sign of the Cross. Recite the following prayer.

I bow down before your altar, Oh Glorious Saint Martha, to give thanks and praise to God who has blessed you with numerous special graces.

You had the honor of knowing Jesus

Christ, receiving Him in your home, listening to Him preach and professing your devotion and love to Him.

You served Our Lord with dedication enjoying hours of spiritual delight.

In response to your pleas, your tears and your fervent prayers, Our Lord deigned to raise your brother Lazarus from the dead when he had already been laid in the tomb.

You were the constant companion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord.

You were witness to the passion and

suffering of Our Lord that lead to the redemption of the world.

After His death and resurrection, your faith, your virtue and your zeal for proclaiming His divinity increased.

The unbelievers persecuted you and expelled you from your homeland, but you continued your life of holiness in France where along with other devout believers you consecrated yourself to the service of Our Lord in the quiet contemplation of the monastery.

How many good works you carried out! How many sacrifices lead to your being crowned in eternity!

Remembering your life and good works, I ask that you intercede for me in front of God so that I might imitate you.

I want to be humble, thankful, accomplish my mission in life, please the Lord and save my soul.

The protection that you give to your devotees is public and admirable.

Protect me, Oh Powerful Saint Martha, gain for me forgiveness for my sins, final perseverance and the remedy to all my necessities.

I ask especially…….**(Mention your request)**

In you I trust wishing to praise God in your company for all eternity!

Amen!

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be.

A Different Version of the Nine Tuesdays Prayer

O glorious Saint Martha,
I have recourse to your protection and aid,
And as proof of my affection and faith
I promise faithfully to complete this novena.

Comfort me in my difficulties
And intercede for my family
With your intimate friend, our savior,
That we may always hold God in our hearts
And be provided for in our necessities.

I beg your supplications
Especially in behalf of the favor
I ask of you in this novena.

(mention your request).

I ask you, Saint Martha,
By your intercession to help me
In overcoming all my difficulties
And to teach me to become great
In the Kingdom of Heaven
By becoming as humble as you
In this world. Amen.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be.

Once you have received your request,

remember to thank Saint Martha by offering her some flowers or making a small donation to charity in her name and of course tell others about what she has done for you!

Novena to Saint Martha

A novena is a powerful and traditional means of requesting a favor from Our Lord, The Blessed Virgin Mary or The Saints. The origin of this spiritual practice comes from the period between the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost Sunday when the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus's disciples went into seclusion to flee the local authorities who were persecuting them. They prayed in seclusion and on the 9th day, Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit descended upon them and they were emboldened to go out and preach the message of Jesus without fear.

Opening Prayer: (To be recited daily)

Oh Glorious, Saint Martha, I am devoted to you. I wish to admire your life and imitate the examples of virtue that you have given us. I wish to honor you for your devotion to God and your compassion towards sinners.

Just as on Earth, Our Lord Jesus Christ showed you divine favor, in Heaven He has continued to distinguish you amongst His saints.

Hear my prayer, Saint Martha and obtain for me from Our Lord the grace of final perseverance, the salvation of my soul and the favor which I request in this novena. **(Make your petition)** If what I ask for does not interfere with my eternal salvation,

I ask that you obtain it for me from Our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever. Amen!

Closing Prayer: (To be recited each day after daily meditation)

Come, Saint Martha, bride of Christ, receive the crown that Our Lord has prepared for you for all eternity!

Grace flows from your lips. For this reason God blessed you in eternity.

Let us pray. Hear us, Oh Lord, and grant that those of us who rejoice in the memory of Saint Martha may receive the fruits of this pious devotion through Christ Our Lord. Amen!

Day One: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha had the blessing of knowing Jesus in the flesh. She was His disciple. She welcomed Him into her home and served Him humbly. She accompanied Him during His bitter passion and consecrated herself to Him until death.

Do you love Jesus? Have you thanked Him for His grace in your life? What will you do in His honor?

Resolution: Following Saint Martha's example, resolve always to live in a state of sanctifying grace.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Two: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha came from a wealthy family, but still she wanted to serve God through sanctifying work. She was an older sister and wanted to set a good example and live a life of virtue.

Do you work only for material gain and not to give glory to God? Do you give money to charity or to needy people?

Resolution: Strive to work for the greater glory of God.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Three: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha believed in Our Lord with absolute certainty. While she was mourning the death of her brother Lazarus, she said to Jesus, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the only son of God."

Is your faith alive and fervent? Do you doubt any of the divine mysteries?

Resolution: Renew your faith daily by reciting the Apostle's Creed.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Four: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha remained faithful to her vocation of serving the Lord whether in the comfort of her castle or when facing obstacles. She even founded a monastery in France where she and other women dedicated their lives to serving the Lord by performing good and holy acts and helping those in need.

Do you pray daily? Do you perform acts of charity? Do you read spiritual books?

Resolution: Resolve to meditate and focus on spiritual matters each day, if only for a few minutes.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Five: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha proved her love to Jesus time and time again, when they persecuted Our Lord, when they persecuted His followers and when they expelled her from her homeland. Even unto death she remained dedicated to serving Jesus.

What do you sacrifice for God? What to do give up for the greater glory of God?

Resolution: Resolve to fast during Lent and perform acts of charity in the service of Our Lord imitating Saint

Martha's example.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Six: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha's life was one of prayer and contemplation ever since Jesus told her of the importance for spiritual contemplation when He preached in her home in Bethany. From the day on she supplemented all her works and activities with prayer.

Do you find yourself distracted from spiritual matters? Do you pray daily?

Resolution: Pray the Rosary or some other popular devotion daily. Offer prayers whenever possible for the Souls in Purgatory.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Seven: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha burned with a desire to share the love of Jesus with others. In her native Palestine she brought many souls to God. After the death and resurrection of Our Savior she continued her mission in the south of France where she preached the message of salvation and eternal life with love and zeal.

Are you indifferent to God's mission for you? Do you care about the salvation of souls? What have to done to love and serve God and your brothers and sisters on Earth?

Resolution: Donate some money or time to a charitable organization or simply offer to help a friend in need in whatever way you can. Never be shy about discussing spiritual topics with others.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Eight: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Mediation: Saint Martha is enjoying the rewards of her life of virtue in

Heaven. There she lovingly follows Jesus singing hymns of praise and adoration.

Are you living your life focused on the glory of Heaven? Do you live in this life as you would wish to live in the next?

Resolution: Keep your thoughts always on Heaven and work towards gaining entry there through good works and prayers.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Day Nine: (Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Opening Prayer)

Meditation: Saint Martha constantly

protects those who are devoted to her. She sits on her throne in Heaven looking down on us suffering in exile. Having pity on us, she pleads to God on our behalf and obtains countless favors.

Is your devotion to Saint Martha rooted solely in self-interest? Do you give thanks to God for the favors granted through the intercession of Saint Martha?

Resolution: Ask Saint Martha's help in being always thankful for the blessings you have in this life.

Pray 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. Recite the Closing Prayer.

Triduum of Saint Martha

A triduum is an ancient type of devotion where prayers are recited over the course of three consecutive days. In recent years, this practice has fallen into disuse, while novenas are stilled widely prayed. The triduum is very powerful, as are all forms of prayer, but the fact that the number three represents the Holy Trinity is quite meaningful here. In fact, the most holy time of the year in the Christian calendar, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are known as the Easter Triduum. If you decide to observe this devotion, I would advise you to visit a church and receive communion at some point during this three day period if you are Catholic or of another Christian denomination. If

not, you may wish to perform another spiritual exercise in line with your personal beliefs to honor Saint Martha.

Opening Prayer: (To be recited daily during the Triduum)

Oh Glorious, Saint Martha, I am devoted to you. I wish to admire your life and imitate the examples of virtue that you have given us. I wish to honor you for your devotion to God and your compassion towards sinners.

Just as on Earth, Our Lord Jesus Christ showed you divine favor, in Heaven He has continued to distinguish you amongst His saints.

Hear my prayer, Saint Martha and obtain for me from Our Lord the grace of final perseverance, the salvation of my soul and the favor

which I request in this novena. **(Make your petition)** If what I ask for does not interfere with my eternal salvation, I ask that you obtain it for me from Our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever. Amen!

Closing Prayer: (To be recited each day of the Triduum after the daily meditation)

Oh miraculous Saint Martha! I request your aid and protection. I trust completely in you and ask that you help me in my tribulations. As a sign of my faith and love for you, I promise to spread devotion to you, honor you and imitate your virtues.

Comfort me in my pain and sufferings. I ask this remembering the great blessing you received when you welcomed Our Lord into your home in

Bethany. Intercede for me and for my family so that we may always carry God in our hearts and that we may receive the remedy to all our necessities and especially the favor I now ask. **(Mention your request)** Please conquer my troubles just as you conquered the dragon you have at your feet. Amen!

Oraciones en español a Santa Marta

Oh Santa Marta milagrosa, me acojo a tu amparo y protección entregándome a ti, para que me ayudes en mi tribulación, y en prueba de mi afecto y agradecimiento, te ofrezco propagar tu devoción. Consuélame en mis penas y aflicciones, te lo suplico por la inmensa dicha que alegró tu corazón al hospedar en tu casa de Betania al Salvador del mundo; intercede por mí y por toda mi familia para que conservemos siempre en nuestros corazones a nuestro Dios viviendo en su gracia y detestando toda ofensa contra El; para que sean remediadas

nuestras necesidades y en especial esta que ahora me aflige (hágase la petición). Te suplico me ayudes a vencer las dificultades con la fortaleza con que venciste, por el poder de la Cruz, al dragón que tienes rendido a tus pies. Así sea.

Rezar tres veces el Padrenuestro. Avemaría y Gloria.

ORACIÓN DE LAS MADRES DE FAMILIA A SANTA MARTA

Oh Santa Marta dichosa, que tantas veces tuviste el honor y la alegría de hospedar a Jesús en el seno de tu familia, de prestarle personalmente tus servicios domésticos, y que

juntamente con tus santos hermanos Lázaro y María Magdalena, gozaste de su divina conversación y doctrina, ruega por mí y por mi familia, para que en ella se conserve la paz y el mutuo amor, para que todos sus miembros vivan en la observancia de la Ley de Dios, y para que sólo Dios, y no el mundo ni el pecado, reine en nuestro hogar. Libra a mi familia de toda desgracia espiritual y temporal, ayúdame en el cuidado de mis hijos y subordinados, y concédeme la dicha de verlos unidos bajo la mirada paternal de Dios en la tierra, para volver a verles reunidos en las moradas del

cielo. Así sea.

ORACIÓN PARA LOS QUE MANTIENEN CASAS DE HUÉSPEDES

Amable protectora mía, Santa Marta, que tuviste la inefable dicha de hospedar a Jesús en tu casa. Dichosa tu mansión de Betania, bendecida tantas veces con la presencia del Huésped divino, y cuyos moradores, tú misma y tus santos hermanos Lázaro y María Magdalena, fuisteis tantas veces honrados con las vi sitas de Jesús, de su Madre Santísima y de los Apóstoles. No permitas, Santa mía, que entre los que se hospedan en mi casa haya ninguno que hospede en su

corazón al demonio, sea motivo de escándalo, o atraiga con su mala conducta las iras de Dios sobre mí y mi familia.

Santa bendita, que viviste en compañía de santos, bendice mi casa, bendice a mis huéspedes, para que en todos reinen la concordia y el amor de Dios. Ayúdame en el cumplimiento exacto de mis deberes y en la administración de mis bienes y negocios, para que aún cuando, por mi condición y estado de vida, tenga que ocuparme de las cosas de la tierra, jamás me olvide que mi patria verdadera y mi último destino es el cielo. Así sea.

Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed learning about this miraculous and powerful saint. It was truly a pleasure for me to compile this collection of prayers and share my personal experiences as a devotee of Saint Martha.

I urge you to try one or more of the devotions listed in this book to seek the help of Saint Martha and to please share your experiences with me. Most of all I pray that we all follow Saint Martha's example of kindness and charity toward others.

I thank you for taking the time to read this short book and I wish you peace, happiness and abundant blessings.

James Duvalier